



TARGET ACCESS

TARGET Procures New Scooters to Meet Demand



TARGET Access

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The word is getting out on the USDA TARGET Center scooter loan program and the demand for scooters has never been greater. The TARGET Center loans scooters to employees with temporary mobility needs within USDA agencies in the Washington, DC area.

Recently, as demand began to increase, Bruce McFarlane, the Director of the TARGET Center, realized something had to be done. "Obviously, we would like to be able to meet the immediate needs of all of our clients," said McFarlane. "In order to help accommodate this demand,

we purchased two new scooters and completely overhauled the TARGET Center scooter loan policy."

The new TARGET scooters, one of which is pictured above, are basic models designed for temporary mobility solutions. Coupled with the existing fleet, these scooters provide a variety of options for USDA employees who need to borrow a scooter for a limited time. In most cases, these are employees with mobility difficulties related to minor surgical procedures, accidents, injuries and/or illnesses. USDA employees with long-term needs should follow USDA reasonable

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Scooters, continued...

accommodation guidelines to request a scooter through their Disability Employment Program Manager (DEPM). The TARGET Center scooter loan program is intended as a temporary accommodation only.

TARGET maintains its position as a disability resource center, and will provide product and manufacturer information to clients who are interested in purchasing a scooter. TARGET will try to make a scooter available (under the loan guidelines) if an employee is waiting for the delivery of a purchased scooter.

Employees interested in borrowing a scooter under the new program can contact the TARGET Center and request the necessary paperwork. TARGET Staff will provide a copy of the loan policy to be signed by the employee and his or her supervisor. Scooters are then picked up at the TARGET Center, or if necessary, delivery can be arranged. Most scooters are loaned for four weeks but the term can be extended to eight weeks with a physician's note. If a scooter is not available when a request is made, the employee may be put on a wait list and/or referred to an outside rental agency. Employees should feel free to inquire ahead of time about scooter availability.

The new policy may seem strict, but Mr. McFarlane insists that all of the changes are of a positive nature. "The response has been very positive and clients are being very responsible about returning their loans," says McFarlane. "As a result, we have more scooters available when needed. We hope that this program has made life just a little easier for those employees who have suffered an injury. Our goal is to do anything we can do to help them get back on their feet."

A copy of the scooter loan policy is available online at www.usda.gov/oo/target/scooter.htm.

TARGET Takes Employee Education On The Road



The success of the USDA TARGET Center's training program has led to many requests for sessions outside of the TARGET Center facility. Topics covered include office ergonomics, PC customizing, accessible pdf files, basic sign language and Section 508. TARGET staff members have recently conducted sessions in the following locations:

Washington DC

Economic Research Service (ERS) at 1800 M St.
Reporter's Building
Portals Building
Yates Building

Maryland

George Washington Carver Center
National Agricultural Library (NAL)
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service
(APHIS) in Riverdale

Virginia

US Marshals in Crystal City
Forest Service (FS) at Rosslyn Plaza

To schedule a TARGET training session in any of the above locations or to inquire about hosting a class in a new location, please call 202-720-2600.

For additional information on TARGET Center training sessions, including a list of currently scheduled classes, please visit www.usda.gov/oo/target.

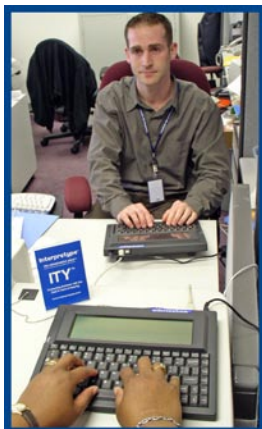
TARGET FOCUS



New Technology Brings in New Visitors

The TARGET Center's Spring Open House, which took place on April 20, 2004, brought in a record number of new visitors to the technology center. USDA and non-USDA employees alike attended demonstrations of ergonomic and assistive technology. Several visitors signed up for TARGET Training Sessions, while many others requested loans of TARGET's most popular devices. The Interprettype and Plantronics' Wireless Headset were the two most sought after of these devices.

The Interprettype connects the non-signing hearing community with the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Speech disabled communities through two pre-programmed laptop style computer devices. Each device has the ability to send and display typed messages to the other device. Each device is also configured to communicate directly with any Windows PC after loading the included software. The Interprettype is on display and available for loan at the TARGET Center.



The Plantronics CS50 Office Wireless Headset System is an ergonomic solution that allows the office worker to be hands-free while on the phone. In addition, the device allows the user to roam up to 300 feet while maintaining a secure and reliable connection. When fully charged, the headset provides 8 hours of wireless talk-time. The Plantronics CS50 is also on display and available for loan at the TARGET Center.

Attendees of the Spring Open House also signed up for TARGET training classes. New brochures detailing the class topics and schedules are available in the TARGET Center. Current schedules are available online at www.usda.gov/oo/target in the News and Events section.

Finally, employees who attended the TARGET Center Open House found a venue where they felt they could meet with their peers to discuss similar issues. "The Open House was a wonderful experience," said one survey respondent. "I was able to meet other people with the same problems that I have."



This June, TARGET staff will join other assistive technology professionals from the Department of Defense's Computer Accommodations Program and the Department of Education's Assistive Technology Team to offer their expertise at Leadership America's American Issues Forum. The Access Technology Seminar will focus on practical applications of various assistive technologies, legislation related to persons with disabilities, and general accessibility. TARGET staff will also make various assistive technologies available to participants for demonstration. Computer Voice Activation, Text-to-Speech, Word Prediction, and Screen Magnification are a few examples of what TARGET will be demonstrating.



USDA TARGET Center Calendar of Events

- **June 9th and July 14th , 12 pm - 1 pm**
Making Accessible PDFs
Location: USDA TARGET Center
- **June 10th, 10 am - 12 pm**
**Central Vision Solutions
Technology Demonstration**
Easy to use low-vision products; e.g. Jordy2
Location: USDA TARGET Center
- **June 16th and July 21st, 12 pm - 1 pm**
Customizing Your PC
Location: USDA TARGET Center
- **June 15th, 9 am - 4 pm**
GWCC Tech Expo Ergo Day
Ergonomics demonstrations and information
Location: GWCC, Beltsville, MD
- **June 17th, 9 am - 4 pm**
WRP Student Open House
WRP interns are invited to open tours
Location: USDA TARGET Center
- **June 22nd, 1 pm - 3 pm**
Making Accessible PDFs
Location: National Agricultural Library
- **July 7th, 12 pm - 1 pm**
Being Comfortable At Work
Location: USDA TARGET Center

*Please visit our web site for more information
and a complete listing of disability related events.*



Helping People. It's What We Do.

USDA TARGET Center
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